

THE GRANNYTOWN GAZETTE

The Newsletter of the Alden Historical Society, Alden NY 14004
aldenhistsoc@gmail.com

Published Quarterly January 2011

MISSION STATEMENT

The Alden Historical Society, founded in 1965, is a volunteer-supported organization whose mission is to preserve, promote and present the history of the Town of Alden and its people.

Historical Society Hosts Bake Sale



The Alden Historical Society's recent holiday bake sale, held in conjunction with the Alden Chamber of Commerce's Christmas in the Park festivities, was a rousing success and determined to become the "First Annual" Historical Society Holiday Bake Sale. Four large tables laden with home-baked specialties including, but not limited to, gaily decorated gingerbread men, holiday frosted cut-outs, crunchy topped banana bread loaves, seasonally-spiced cakes and bar cookies, succulent and crisp apple pies, creamy-frosted cupcakes,

and cinnamon sweet rolls greeted visitors to the Society Building. Most of the goodies were sold. Those remaining were served at the society's Christmas program on Thursday, Dec. 9, at the Historical Society Bldg. Proceeds from the sale will help support some of the Society's administrative expenses, such as internet access and quarterly published newsletters.



Continued next page

The Historical Society wishes to extend their gratitude to society members who turned out a fabulous show of support in bringing in their home-baked goodies to sell. Thanks also to the members who volunteered their time to promote the bake sale by calling members requesting donations and to those who spread the word through local media. An additional word of thanks is extended to the members who volunteered their time to work at the bake sale, and finally, thanks to the community who supported the sale by purchasing our bake goods. Ideas for fundraisers are always welcome. If you have any such ideas, please forward them to aldenhistsoc@gmail.com or by leaving a message at the Historical Society, 937-3700. The Society Building is open to visitors 10AM – 2PM Saturdays, and beginning in January 2011, will also be open Thursday evenings from 6-8 PM.

Elli DeFilippo



Century Houses Needed

The editors of THE GRANNYTOWN GAZETTE are seeking **Century Houses** to feature in future newsletters. If you are the proud owner of an Alden home at least 100 years of age, we would like to hear from you. Help us to convince potential home buyers of the benefits of owning and maintaining a home loaded with memories and unique features. We invite you to share with our readers a brief written history of your home. Copies of previously submitted "Century Houses" are available as models to assist you in the task of writing the history. Please leave a message at 937-3700 or e-mail aldenhistsoc@gmail.com.

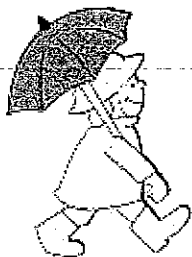
Historical Society Open First and Third Thursday Evenings

Beginning in January 2011, the Alden Historical Society will be open for visitors on the first and third Thursday of every month, in addition to Saturdays from 10 to 2 pm. This is to offer availability to people who are unable to visit during Saturdays. The Society has no charge for admission, but donations are gratefully accepted. Come enjoy this free benefit!

The Society is encouraging its membership to volunteer to assist during these additional open hours in order to maintain a minimum of two adults in the building at all times.

The following article was discovered by Curator Karen Muchow. Apparently, at one time, the Alden High School had a page in the Advertiser which they entitled "The Nutshell." No author is listed, and the only date available is 1930.

Wearing Overshoes



Wearing overshoes is only another way for fond parents to tyrannize over their sons and daughters. When the first sign of snow is noticed, "but you've forgotten your overshoes," sounds like an ominous roll of thunder. It may only be a suggestion but what force may be suggested.

However, one puts on the overshoes and buckles them up. In less than five minutes, they are open and usually remain so. One wears them to school, where one's memory seems to weaken, with the result that one arrives home minus the overshoes. The overshoes then remain in school for a few days, perhaps weeks. If the owner is unlucky, they may be found, perhaps in a waste basket, perhaps on top of a radiator. Then, the overshoes are donned, with many sighs, by their owner. They are wearily dragged home, usually to repose there for a time. When there is much snow, even a young child may wear overshoes without too many complaints. However, as one walks along the road or sidewalk, striding to the music of clashing buckles, he may accidentally step into the deep snow, or be forced from his path. Then, the chill of snow packed around his ankles and filling his shoes. Finally, he buckles up his overshoes and pursues his way toward his destination, and on arriving there, finds solace in the fact that martyr-like, he has worn his overshoes.

From Our Department of the Manners, Conduct and Dress of the Most Refined Society, John H. Young, 1881.

Higher Education for Women

It is not for women alone that they should seek a higher education of their faculties and powers, but for the sake of the communities in which they live, for the sake of the homes in which they rule and govern, and govern immortal souls, and for the sake of those other homes in the humbler walks of life, where they owe duties as ministering spirits as well as their own, for the proportion as they minister to the comfort and health of others, so they exalt their own souls. Women should seek a higher education in order that they may elevate themselves for whatever duty they may be called upon to perform. In social life we find that the truest wives, the most patient and careful mothers, the most exemplary house-keepers, the model sisters, the wisest philanthropists and the women of the greatest social influence are women of cultivated minds.

FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK:



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At the December 9, 2010 meeting, a constitutional amendment was passed, which changes the meeting dates so that there will be no program meetings in July and August. As we did not have a quorum at our annual meeting in November, we did have a quorum of the membership in December, so we were able to vote on a constitutional amendment and for trustees for 2011. If you missed the annual meeting and would like a copy of the annual reports, please contact the secretary at the Historical Society.

The Society is always in need of people to work with committees which help the Society function properly. Please consider offering your time and talents to ensure that our Mission Statement is fulfilled. We do have some volunteers for refreshments for meetings, but can always use more! Sign up for committees and refreshments at the January meeting. Many thanks!

Laura Lochr, Secretary

A Call For Volunteers

If you are interested in the history of Alden, like meeting people, and want to help your Society, please consider becoming a Saturday or Thursday house sitter. The Society building is open every Saturday from 10 am to 2 pm, and beginning in January, every Thursday from 6-8 pm. We encourage volunteers to consider a two hour period.

The Society's own "Green Team" keeps the grounds attractive. They are always looking for helpers. Expertise in gardening is appreciated but not necessary.

Help is needed computerizing the collections records. We have a computer program to input the information.

We have a new DVD recorder on hand but need someone with the skills and interest in converting our VHS videos to DVD format.

Housekeeping gives our historic building tender loving care from dusting and vacuuming to washing windows and curtains.

For more information or to volunteer, leave a message at 937-3700 or e-mail aldenhistsoc@gmail.com.

Karen Muchow, Curator

From the Collections Committee

The Collections Committee will meet the third Saturday of the month at 10:00 AM at the Historical Society Building.

Recent Acquisitions

We thank the following people for their donations to our collections:

Ken & Marie Woods---a 1923 Victor Victrola, phonograph records and extra needles
Faith Wendling---a switchboard operator's headset and a Zippo lighter
Laura Airey---her 1950 wedding gown and Neeland's Dairy promotional items
Kris Rogers---her handmade 1973 wedding gown and 1960s Ken and Barbie dolls
The Alden High School Student-Faculty Forum---the 2010 yearbook

HISTORICAL SOCIETY BUILDING:

The ALDEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S many exhibits are located in the Alden Historical Society Building at 13213 Broadway in the village, across from the bank. The mission of the historical society is to preserve, promote and present the history of Alden and its people.

HOURS:

The Alden Historical Society Building is open to the public every Saturday from 10 to 2 pm and first and third Thursdays from 6 to 8 pm.

Tours for individuals and groups may be arranged by calling 937-3700, 937-6400 or email aldenhistsoc@gmail.com

MEETINGS:

Program meetings are generally held at the Alden Community Center on the second Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm. Notices will be published in the Alden Advertiser in advance of the program.

Open to the public these programs are both informative and interesting. Many times a guest speaker is present. You are very welcome to come and share your memories and experiences about the evening's program. Afterwards enjoy an informal social complete with homemade refreshments.

Trustee meetings are held at the Alden Historical Building at 8:00 pm. Meetings will be held on the first Thursday of the month in February, April, June, August, October and December (even-numbered months). The trustee meetings are open to the membership.

OFFICERS

*President.....*Roberta Vincent

*Vice President ...*Elli DeFilippo

*Secretary.....*Laura Loehr

*Treasurer.....*Ralph Davis

*Curator.....*Karen Muchow

*Archivist.....*Karen Muchow

Society Historian

Alden Town Historian

Alden Town Board Liaison

*Editors.....*Elli DeFilippo/Carl Matthies

*Publicity.....*Judy Hotchkin

TRUSTEES

Fred Blowers

Bill Dabb

Elli DeFilippo

Gil Dussault

Judy Hotchkin

Kris Rogers

Sal Sardella

Keith Stone

Roberta Vincent

Paul Werner

Welcome New & Renewed Members

RENEWED MEMBERS:

Margaret Gorniewicz
MaryAnn Sardella
Marge Matuszewski
Rena Pautler
Richard Savage
Audrey Senecal

BUSINESS MEMBERS:

Alden Community Scholarship
Foundation
Alden Advertiser
Alden State Bank
Neill & Strong, Attorneys LLC
The Elwood-Jordans Agency Inc

RENEWED FAMILY MEMBERS:

Norman & Natalie Taylor

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION:

New members are always welcome. Your support will ensure that the Alden Historical Society will continue to grow and prosper for years to come. Please make check payable as noted below.
Thank you for your support.

DUES

Single	\$8.00	Name.....	
Family	\$12.00	Address	
Lifetime.....	\$75.00	
Business....	\$45.00	Phone.....	Email.....

A check payable to: *ALDEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY* may be mailed to:

Judy Hotchkin, Membership Secretary
Alden Historical Society
13213 Broadway
Alden, NY 14004

DONATIONS AND MEMORIALS ARE GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED

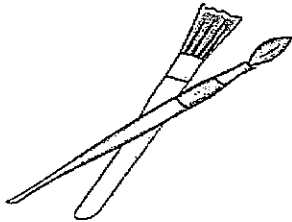
aldenhistsoc@gmail.com

Phone 937 3700

A special thank you to the *ALDEN ADVERTISER* for donating membership cards to the Alden Historical Society.

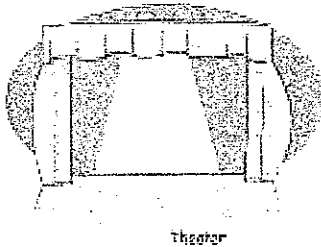
MONTHLY PROGRAMS

JANUARY 13, 2011 American Art Work
7pm, Community Center



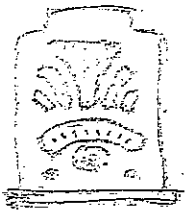
Brief introduction and history of the Alden Art Club. Guest speaker for the evening is JACK EDSON. His topic is American Art Work—a presentation filled with facts and a wonderful slide presentation.

FEBRUARY 10, 2011 Theatre
7pm, Community Center



An insightful look at the “True Theatre History of the 20th Century” by JOHN BASIL. The Basil Theatres were the most prominent theatres developed in Western New York this past century, and John Basil is the only survivor from that time frame who managed the stage and screen entertainment businesses in the Buffalo area (25 theatres—none in Alden). Mr. Basil will share stories from his family’s business, which lasted from 1923 to 1983. Contrast this with what the entertainment scene was here in Alden during that time.

MARCH 10, 2011 Old Time Radio
7 pm, Community Center



Years ago when things moved at a slower pace, cell phones, iPods and DVDs were non-existent—but there was RADIO. JERRY COLLINS, president of The Buffalo Old Time Radio Club will be our guest speaker. Mr. Collins is an expert on those radio programs of yesteryear. Relive those memories and share some of your own.

Many thanks to Carol and Conrad Borucki for arranging for these first three 2011 programs’ speakers!

APRIL 14, 2011 Trivia
7 pm, Community Center

What do you know about Alden, the place you call home? Can you pit your knowledge of hometown facts against other Aldenites? Then join us for Alden Trivia Night, hosted by our own Conrad Borucki. Enjoy the evening’s festivities as a participant or as an observer. It should be a lot of fun! Prizes will be awarded as well!

ALDEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

DATES TO REMEMBER

WINTER 2011

PROGRAM MEETINGS 7 PM, Community Center	TRUSTEE MEETINGS 8 PM, Historical Society Bldg
January 13..... American Art Work	February 3..... Historical Society Bldg. Members Invited
February 10.....History of Basil Theaters	April 7..... Historical Society Bldg. Members Invited
March 10.....Old Time Radio	

ALDEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY
13213 BROADWAY
ALDEN, NY 14004

www.alden.erie.gov



ALDEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Chartered by the Board of Regents
New York State Education Department
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